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Security Council

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Letter dated 28 March 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey a letter dated 25 March 2011 from the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Mr. James Victor Gbeho, requesting the transmission of the resolution of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire, dated 24 March 2011 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 March 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 25 March 2011 from the President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States addressed to the Secretary-General

Request for further United Nations action on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

In line with our mutual preoccupation with the rapidly deteriorating political and security situation in Côte d'Ivoire, the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) devoted much attention to the subject at its 39th Ordinary Summit, held in Abuja on 23 and 24 March 2011.

The Authority reasoned that, despite numerous mediation efforts, the outgoing President, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, has persistently refused to abide by the decisions of ECOWAS, the African Union and the United Nations requesting him to cede the reins of power to Mr. Alassane Ouattara, the universally acclaimed winner of the 28 November 2010 presidential run-off election. As a consequence, the Authority decided that the time has come to enforce its decision of 24 December 2010 to use all necessary measures, including the use of legitimate force, to ensure the transfer of power.

To this end, the Authority took a number of decisions, among which was a request to the Security Council on the following measures:

- Authorize the immediate implementation of the ECOWAS Authority decisions of 7 and 24 December 2010
- Strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) to enable it to use all necessary means to protect life and property, and to facilitate the immediate transfer of power to Mr. Ouattara
- Adopt more stringent international sanctions against Mr. Gbagbo and his associates
- Request the international community to ensure an enabling environment in Côte d'Ivoire for the population and UNOCI to go about their duties without any hindrance.

In view of the urgency of the matter, I would be most grateful if the request of the ECOWAS Authority could be brought to the attention of the Security Council at the briefing on Côte d'Ivoire scheduled for today, 25 March 2011.

A copy of the Authority's resolution on Côte d'Ivoire (A/RES.1/03/11) is attached for your kind attention.

(*Signed*) James Victor **Gbeho**
President of the Commission

Enclosure

[Original: English and French]

Resolution A/RES.1/03/11 of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS on the situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The Authority of the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, meeting in Abuja from 23 to 24 March 2011 at its 39th Ordinary Summit;

Having exhaustively reviewed the rapidly deteriorating political, security and humanitarian situation in Côte d'Ivoire provoked by the disputed run-off presidential election of 28 November 2010;

Firmly condemning the wanton violence against civilians leading to unacceptable loss of life and property;

Deploring the deliberate targeting of innocent Ivorians, ECOWAS citizens and other foreigners, and also the attacks on personnel of the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire;

Deeply concerned by the large waves of refugees fleeing across borders and the swelling colonies of internally displaced persons;

Convinced that the current situation is a direct consequence of the refusal of the outgoing President, Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, to cede power to Mr. Alassane Ouattara, the universally recognized winner of the 28 November 2010 election;

Recognizing that the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire has now become a regional humanitarian emergency;

Recalling the Decisions of the Extraordinary Summits of the Authority of 7 and 24 December 2010, particularly regarding paragraph 10 of the latter, which states: "In the event that Mr. Gbagbo fails to heed (the) immutable demand of ECOWAS (to hand over power), the Community would be left with no alternative but to take other measures, including the use of legitimate force, to achieve the goals of the Ivorian people";

Bearing in mind that these Decisions have been endorsed by the African Union and the United Nations;

Firmly decides that the time has come to enforce its Decisions of 7 and 24 December 2010 in order to protect life and to ensure the transfer of the reins of power to Mr. Alassane Ouattara without any further delay;

To this end, requests the United Nations Security Council to authorize the immediate implementation of the Authority Decisions of December 2010;

In this context, requests the United Nations Security Council to strengthen the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), enabling the Mission to use all necessary means to protect life and property, and to facilitate the immediate transfer of power to Mr. Alassane Ouattara;

Also requests the United Nations Security Council to adopt more stringent international targeted sanctions against Mr. Laurent Gbagbo and his associates;

Directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to explore all avenues of providing the Government of Mr. Alassane Ouattara all the necessary legal and diplomatic means to exercise its authority, including admitting the Government to all meetings of ECOWAS;

Urges all Member States of ECOWAS to facilitate the accreditation of Ambassadors and other representatives of Mr. Alassane Ouattara to their countries;

Further directs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to intensify contingency plans to meet all eventualities, including the provision of humanitarian corridors and the protection of civilians;

Instructs the President of the ECOWAS Commission to take all appropriate measures to strengthen the ECOWAS presence in Côte d'Ivoire to facilitate the discharge of the responsibilities of the Community;

Urges the United Nations to request the international community to ensure an enabling environment for the population and the United Nations Mission to go about their duties without any hindrance, and provide protection and welfare to the refugees and internally displaced persons generated by the crisis;

Finally, invites the African Union Commission to urgently implement the Decisions of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 10 March 2011 on Côte d'Ivoire by despatching without delay the High Representative to the country and establishing the joint African Union-ECOWAS facilitation team to ensure the immediate transfer of power to Mr. Alassane Ouattara.

The Authority decides to remain seized with the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

Done at Abuja, this 24th Day of March 2011

(*Signed*) Goodluck Ebele **Jonathan**
Chairman
For The Authority